The Marker Lamp

Volume 55 Number 3 Summer 2009

Mr. Blake Bogs

I would like to introduce Mr. **Blake Bogs** to the members of the Lone Star Region. Blake is the 2008/2009 Youth Member nominated by **Ray Byer**, the Director of Division 8.

Blake is fourteen years old and the son of **Barry and Janet Bogs** residing in Spring, Texas. In February 2009 Blake received a score of 100 with his History Fair project entitled "The 1869 Transcontinental Railroad". He graduated from Trinity Lutheran School with Merit and Honor Roll awards in May 2009.

Since the age of two Blake has been interested in trains beginning with Thomas Tank RR and later with an LGB starter set (no doubt an influence of Barry's). About a year ago Blake selected HO scale and focus on Santa Fe, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific in the 1940s and 1950s.

Blake won first place in the San Jacinto Model Railroad Show contest with a Mantua 4-6-2 Pacific kit. At the 2009 LSR Convention he won 2nd and 3rd place in the Steam Locomotive category with a UP 4-6-0 #1748 and a UP 4-6-2 #3900, respectively. He also won the "Youth/Teen Award" at the Convention. His dad is going to have to give up some wall space for Blake's awards at the rate he is going.

You have to like Blake. He is friendly and engaging. His vocabulary include phrases like "Yes Sir", "No Sir" and "Thank you". You have to respect Blake. He is knowledgeable about railroads, their history and is a good modeler improving all the time.

Blake Bogs, welcome to the Lone Star Region of the NMRA!

The Marker Lamp

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

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Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

Correspondence relating to Pike Ads, Dealer Ads, Address Changes and requests for extra copies should be addressed to **Rocky Jackson, 301 Teakwood Lane, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104 (972) 291-5453**

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

When convention time comes each year, the Lone Star Region marvelously changes into a vibrant train-load of everything — mostly railroad related — bustling with clinics, layout and prototype tours, contests, auctions, real live train rides, banquets, and most importantly, **friendships**. As I look back over many years of Lone Star Region conventions, I feel that one of the greatest benefits of belonging to the LSR is the regional conventions which bring together railroaders I have known all those years. From these friends from all over the country I have learned, in person, so much more about all aspects of railroading and life that never could have been obtained from other sources. These friendships are reason enough to go to the annual LSR conventions.

Occasionally, however, a convention takes place that really blows your mind, such as the 2009 Trinity River Interchange jointly hosted by the Dallas and Fort Worth Divisions. For 5 days this past June a tremendous variety of railroad and non-rail activities entertained the over 200 attendees. Jerry Hoverson, Convention General Chairman developed and led a team of over 25 to accomplish a single goal…make this one of the best conventions ever. They succeeded in many fantastic ways. There were 90 hours of clinics, many by nationally known MMR's; 50 layouts on tour; operating sessions on 14 layouts; train ride from Grapevine to Fort Worth's historic Stock Yards; two-entrée banquet dinner with speaker Hal Carstens (long time publisher of *Railroad Model Craftsman*); many high quality contest entries; the ever popular silent auction, and $1,000's of door prizes. And as I said earlier, we had those wonderful fellowship moments. Considering all that was going on, the cost was less than a $1.00 per hour of activities. What a bargain!

For those of you who attended the Trinity River Interchange convention, I do not need to elaborate further on the multitude of things that you were able to do. For the many of you that did not attend, you cannot imagine what you missed.

Conventions sustain the life of the Lone Star Region. Without them we could not provide the services to members, such as *The Marker Lamp*, contest awards, convention funds and, as mentioned earlier, superb opportunities for fellowships.

I am honored to serve as your new president of this great organization. I pledge to help the Lone Star Region achieve even greater heights in service to its current members, our growing number of new members, and to the youths who will perpetuate this legacy into the future. I am just a phone call or email away, and I sincerely welcome your comments. Please let me hear from you.

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

With this issue I start another year as your editor. It seems like just yesterday that Jim Packer asked me to take over as editor, a task I had to think over long and hard, but did accept the challenge. Somewhere back in my Scouting background I learned that if you are going to be in an organization you need to be more than just a member, you need to participate. While the years and issues have flown by this is a job that couldn't be done without help from many other people in the region. From the President that prods Directors each issue with his reminder, to all of the Directors that send in their reports. Also thanks to the members that send in their articles to be published. I am always looking for more articles. If you notice this issue is only 16 pages in length, not the normal 20 pages. That is because I didn't receive any extra articles. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my most regular contributor, Tracy Mitchell who sends his column, Mastering Modeling, and has never missed an issue. If you are thinking about an article, now is the time to hit the keyboard and share with the rest of the members of the LSR.

You will notice this cover is a little different than in the past. As we were leaving the LSR Convention this year we stopped by Tom Browning's railroad to visit and see anyone crazy enough to hand lay a Z scale layout, and quite a nice layout it is. But I digress, while we were talking, we spoke about the youth, our hobby's future, and how the youth member was not honored at the convention breakfast this year. So Tom got with our President and myself and we felt we would give the front cover to honor Blake, from Division 8. By the time you read this Tom Browing and Bill McPherson will have made a trip to Houston and presented a framed copy of this newsletter to Blake at a meeting of the Petty Coat Junction, a railroad group Blake and his dad, Barry belong to. Along these lines if you know a youth interested in trains, pass that name along to your division Director so he can nominate the young person for this next year.

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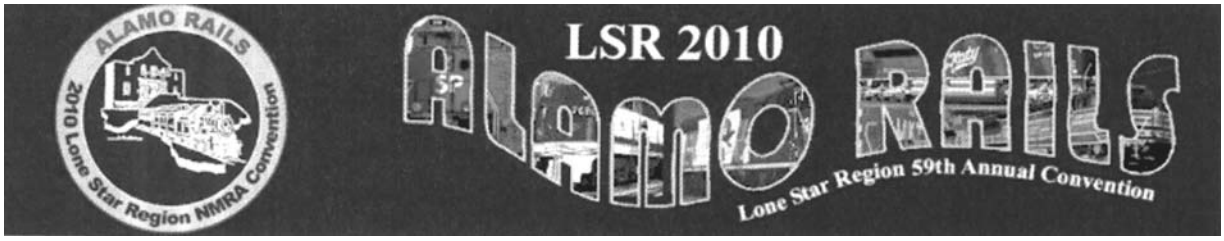

HIGHLIGHTS

alamorails.org

See our web site for the latest news

June 2nd – June 6th

The Holiday Inn Select San Antonio Airport
77 NE Loop 410
210-349-9900

Prototype tours, Riverwalk, Clinics, Sea World, Contest Room, El Mercado Shopping, Home Layouts, Fiesta Texas, Operating Sessions, Golf, Banquet Dinner, Industry Tours, Best Tex-Mex Food, Silent Auction, Alamo Rails Dinner, Old Friends, and last but not least , The Alamo.

Come one and come all. This is San Antonio!

Paul Steves
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Al Boos
Co-Chair
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MINUTES OF THE LONE STAR REGION ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Irving, TX June 7, 2009

Roll Call:

All officers and directors were present except for Division 6 director Bill Dryden (proxy assigned to Chuck Lind), and Chairpersons Eunice Linda and Gary McMills.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Chris Atkins, seconded by Jim Long, and passed by the Board, that the minutes of the January 10, 2009 Board meeting be accepted. The minutes were published in the Winter 2009 issue of the Marker Lamp.

Officer Reports

President Jerry Schoenberg's report emphasized his concern that a small group of individuals are doing the lion's share of the work in the LSR. He would like everybody to encourage others to give back to the hobby by volunteering.

Secretary/Treasurer Elbert Smith's report showed that the LSR's net worth on April 30, 2009 was $38,646.10 which was a decrease of almost $8,000 from the previous year. This was due to the fact that $1,700 was spent to purchase two LCD projectors, two screens, connector cords, and bulbs. Additionally, the LSR spent $4,700 to sponsor the train ride aboard the Grapevine Railroad at this year's convention. This was in accordance with the June 2008 decision by the board to sponsor events at conventions if the net worth of the region was above $40,000.

NMRA/LSR membership totaled 1012 on May 31, 2009. Membership distribution per Division from 2005 through 2009 continues to remain steady. Total numbers of members on a monthly basis continues to fluctuate, but overall has remained steady at roughly 1,000.

Department Chair Reports

Achievement Chair Al Boos reported that the NMRA website contains updated forms to reflect the new requirements for the AP program including the Electrical which has changed considerably to reflect DCC.

Contest Chair Duane Richardson reported that this year's contest went well. If there is any way possible in the future, the contest room needs to be in a separate area from the space used for the banquet room. In addition, he requested extra help for the contest room.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson reported about 238 people attended this year's convention including 176 rails and 46 non-rails. About 40 people registered in the last 2 weeks.

Dispatcher Eunice Linda was not present at the meeting. However, she did supply a report informing the board that she sold a number of HO cars. In fact, she sold more cars at this convention than the last four conventions combined. We still have many N scale cars. Remember, at this point any cars sold are pure profit. Eunice would appreciate it if someone else assumed the dispatcher duties. Matt Latham volunteered to assume these duties.

The board unanimously expressed their appreciation for the incredible sacrifice and job that Eunice Linda has done over the years. Especially impressive is her diligence in keeping up with the inventory and for the number of cars she sold this past year.

Historian Jim Long reported that he believes he has found what he wants to set-up a new display for next year's convention to display decals. Later in the meeting action was taken on this item since it required an adjustment in the proposed budget.

Nominating Chair Gary McMills - no report given.

Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag said that this year's convention went extremely well. President Jerry Schoenberg congratulated them on always being ahead of where the Rails were in preparation for the convention. There will be a meeting next week to determine who will be in charge of heading up the non-rail events for next year's convention in San Antonio.

Publications Chair Chuck Lind reported that the next articles for *The Marker Lamp* are due on July 15.

Web Page Chair Duane Richardson said the site was just renewed. In addition, the updated bylaws will be placed online.

Youth Chair Rocky Jackson is planning on trying to coordinate some events with the Boy Scouts such that those participants can receive both their railroading merit badge through the Boy Scouts as well as their Golden Spike through the NMRA.

Education Chair Tracy Mitchell discussed the need of keeping track of the clinics that are given so that directors can keep him informed of all events and clinics taking place within their divisions biannually.

Events Chair Bill Dryden—no report given

Membership Chair Larry Swigert reported that the number of LSR memberships is holding steady. About 92% of the members are renewing. About 40% of those who sign up for the Rail Pass program are then renewing for a full membership. He said that by creating a lot of interest in the convention through intense promotion, it was a selling point for membership. We are one of the few regions in the entire NMRA that continues to maintain our membership at a constant rate. He is contacting every member who is up for renewal or is 30 or 60 days past due personally.

Photographer Dave Lamberts—If you want a CD of the photographs from the convention, request them from him and he will send them to you. He volunteered to do an 11-minute slide show of this year's photos at the San Antonio Convention during the breakfast.

Division Director Reports

Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported that Divisions 1 & 3 manned a table at the Plano Train Show in January, and a couple of new members joined.

Division 2 Director Dick Schneider reported that membership in his southern Louisiana division is remaining steady. Several individuals requested a future convention be held in New Orleans or Shreveport. He informed the group that, at the moment, it is not affordable in New Orleans and there are not enough layouts for a tour in the Shreveport area.

Division 3 Director Duane Richardson reported that they manned a table in conjunction with Division 1 at the Plano show. As a result, a couple of new members joined.

Division 4 Director Bill Dryden—no report given.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts did not have a report.

Division 6 Director Fred Bock reported that Hobbytown USA and the Texas Transportation Museum have agreed to co-sponsor the special contest at the San Antonio convention.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell submitted a report by email.

Division 8 Director Ray Byer submitted his report by email as well. He did state that their project at Katy Elementary School has successfully begun construction of track around the front foyer. President Jerry Schoenberg praised him for this wonderful Youth project.

Directors at Large—Bob Bray, Chuck Lind, Tracy Mitchell—no reports given.

Old Business

LSR Contest Rules—Last year the board appointed a committee consisting of Tracy Mitchell, Ray Byer, and Duane Richardson with significant input by Chuck Lind to look at the contest rules and make them more in-line with the National's rules.

Preliminary Report – Trinity River Interchange—there were more people than anticipated so the Grapevine Railroad added another car. This will be part of the convention cost.

LSR Audio-Visual Equipment— A discussion ensued about the use of the equipment owned by the LSR. At issue were to whom and when the LSR Audio-Visual equipment would be transferred to the

next users. Also discussed was who would be responsible for repairs, especially the very expensive projection bulbs.

For a LSR/NMRA function, the equipment may be checked out through the chair of the next convention. A reminder needs to be given to all clinicians that the host convention does NOT supply laptops.

Chris Atkins made a **motion** that the LSR pay the costs of buying an extension cord for the Audio-Visual equipment. Fred Bock seconded the motion, and it passed.

Another **motion** was made by Chuck Lind and seconded by Fred Bock that the chair for the following convention will be in charge of the equipment. It would need to be returned in the same condition as it was when it was issued. The board passed this motion.

Fred Bock officially thanked Jerry Schoenberg for his service as the President.

New Business

Installation of New Officers—the following new officers were sworn in: Bill McPherson is the new president, Loren Nuefeld is the new vice-president, Robert "Rocky Jackson" is the new secretary/treasurer. Also elected is Jerry Hoverson as the Division 3 Director.

Changes to Contest Rules— Since board members had only received the recommended changes the Monday before the convention, after a very brief discussion the board agreed to table the matter until the next board meeting to give the board sufficient time to study the new rules.

Conventions—Wild Card—-Greeted with much anticipation, the board applauded Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts upon announcing that the 2011 convention will be hosted by the Lubbock Division. The last convention hosted by them was in 2003. The Amarillo club will be helping to supply volunteers for the convention. Several board members expressed appreciation to Dave Lamberts for agreeing to be the host and are looking forward to attending.

A motion was made by Dave Lamberts and seconded by Chuck Lind to accept Lubbock as the host of the 2011 convention. Passed by board.

Bill McPherson commented that in June 2002, the board voted to establish that the official LSR convention will run from noon Friday to noon Sunday. During this time, all official business must take place including the Banquet, the Breakfast, and the Business meeting. Additional scheduling of activities will be at the option of the local committee if they wish. Having operating sessions on Wednesday night has enabled this popular activity to expand and has increased the number of hotel room-nights.

Preliminary Report – San Antonio Convention

Al Boos mentioned that in 2006 the San Antonio convention hotel put in certain stipulations regarding penalties to the convention if it did not meet contractual requirements, but conversely the hotel was not penalized for its failures. For the 2010 convention, Al Boos commented that he was successful in getting more definitive adjustments and guarantees from the hotel if it defaults on its agreements.

Paul Steves, chairman of the 2010 San Antonio convention, mentioned that a special Thursday evening event will be held at the Texas Transportation Museum. The Garden railway group will be operating and they will run the train for us. They are contemplating having pre- and post-convention open houses at out-of-town layouts along the highways to San Antonio. For the prototype tours, they are looking at area cement plants and a rail yard.

The hotel has agreed to a $90 rate per night. A facility surcharge will be added for those members who do not stay at the convention hotel. This surcharge helps to defray the cost of the hotel facilities for the clinics, contests, and banquet. The San Antonio convention has guaranteed a total of 230 room nights.

LSR Sponsored 2010 convention expense—Since the LSR's net worth has fallen below $40,000 the LSR will not be sponsoring a special event at next year's convention.

Convention Fund Retainment—After discussion it was recommended that $10,000 continue to be the amount retained as an convention emergency fund in case of an unforeseen loss at a convention. Fred Bock made the motion; Jerry Schoenberg seconded it, and the motion carried.

Future Car Sales and Decals—no discussion took place beyond mentioning that we still have a large inventory of N scale cars.

Ballots—Chuck Lind made a **motion** which was seconded by Fred Bock to destroy the ballots. It was passed.

LSR Budget—Elbert Smith reminded committee chairs to pay attention to how much they need. In the past, the budget has been approved and immediately afterwards receipts have been turned in that create over budget situations in that category. The historian requested that his budget be changed to $50 for the coming year. Additionally, Bill McPherson reminded everybody that we need to pay real close attention to what the LSR is spending due to our net worth decreasing significantly (under the proposed budget).

A discussion about award plaques for the contests took place. The contest committee needs to look at how much is being spent on the laser plaques to determine if the costs can be kept to around $300. Chuck Lind agreed stay at $300. This subject will be watched closely. It will be brought up again for discussion to determine if we may need to return to using the less-expensive alternative plaques.

Under the proposed 2009 LSR budget, the LSR will lose approximately $4,000 in net worth this coming year. Chuck Lind made a **motion** to accept the proposed budget with an increase of the historian's budget to $50. Jerry Schoenberg seconded the motion, and it was passed by the board.

Adjournment

Jerry Schoenberg made a **motion** to adjourn, and Chuck Lind seconded the motion. It was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Minutes submitted by Robert "Rocky" Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer
July 13, 2009

Special Contest For San Antonio "Prove them wrong"

I've been told that you can't take a $5 or $10 kit and make a model out of it that will merit. Now, I know that it can be done because I couldn't let a challenge like that go unanswered so I built one. It's easy to do with a lot of extras that won't come with the kit and some planning. So, fellow modelers, here is your mission...Buy a small building kit (DPM, City Classics or some sort) that is no more than $15 in N or HO (for S and O scalers you might have to spend a little more to get a similar structure but let's shoot for Under $25 for the bigger scales). The kit is to be a simple building with 4 walls and no frills. Using DPM for example just start with a plain brick building. Add any and all extras that you want to your heart's desire. Add roof details, close up windows, add new doors...heck add new walls to extend the building. Let's show the critics that you can merit with a cheap kit if it's done right. Also, the instructions from the kit need to be included in the submitted contest forms so we can see what it was supposed to look like and what you have done instead.

How's that? Drop me an email if you have any questions

2009 LSR Contest Results

Model Contest

Steam Locomotives:
1st: Chuck Lind – Tall Pine Logging Engine #23
2nd: Blake Bogs – UP 4-6-0 #1748
3rd: Blake Bogs – UP 4-6-2 # 3900

Diesel Locomotives:
1st: Marty Vaughn – Rail Cruiser Artilery Car
2nd: Marty Vaughn – Heavy Rail Cruiser
3rd: Barry Bogs – G Scale EMD F-3 AB

Displays:
1st: Loren Neufeld – Desolation Station
2nd: David Davis – Bubba's Locker Plant
3rd: Larry Alfred – Harrimen's Corner

Bridges & Trestles:
1st: Charlie Kirk – Deck Truss Bridge

Off-line Structures:
1st: David Davis – DTS LCL Freight House
2nd: Chuck Lind – E.S. Camp Mercantile
3rd: Don Kimmell – Logging Bunk House

On-line Structures:
1st: David Davis – Coaling Tower
2nd: Chuck Lind – Westside Lumber Company Tank
3rd: Rod Fredericks – Colorado Inspired Narrow Gauge Coaling Dock

Passenger Cars:
1st: Denny Bullard – Alaska RR Passenger Car #2000 "Aurora"
2nd: Paul Leonard – Burlington Passenger Car

Freight Cars:
1st: Larry Alfred – Dow Chemical Bromine Tank Car
2nd: Pat Harriman – OCM&T On30 Low Side Gondola #41
3rd: Larry Alfred – ICG Thrall All Door Car

Maintenance of Way:
1st: Al Boos – Flat Car Pile Driver Tender
2nd: Pat Harriman – OCM&T Tool Caboose
3rd: Pat Harriman – OCM&T On30 Plow Flanger #9

Cabooses:
1st: BarryBogs – D&RGW Cabbose
2nd: Steve Barkley – NP Drover's Caboose #999998

Complete Train:
1st: John Romberger – HOn3 D&RG Passenger Train

Photo Contest

Color Prototype Photo:
1st: Bradley Linda – Shooting the Gap
2nd: Chuck Lind – 486 on Durango Turntable
3rd: Marc Lachey – 315 on a curve

Color Model Photo:
1st: Charles Goodrich – LA Country Morning

Computer Enhanced:
1st: Charles Goodrich – Cass at Night
2nd: Charles Goodrich – 315 on Durango Turntable
3rd: Chuck Lind – 488 up close

Black & White Prototype Photo:
1st: Larry Alfred – Morning Train
2nd: Chuck Lind – Turning 486
3rd: Larry Alfred – Leavenworth Crossing

Black & White Model Photo:
1st: Chuck Lind – Morning at the engine house

Arts &Crafts

Arts & Crafts - Theme:
1st: Barbara Smith – Crossroads of Texas
2nd: Ginny Boos – Texas Wilderness Tote
3rd: Julia Davis – Cross Stitch Tote

Arts & Crafts - General:
1st: Julia Davis – Ripped Ceramic Vase

Arts & Crafts - Railroadana:
1st: Ginny Boos – Ticket Tote

Arts & Crafts - Needlework:
1st: Barbara Smith – The Good Life
2nd: Ginny Boos – Ribbon Embroidery Pin & Ear Rings
3rd: Ginny Boos – Mint Green & White Baby Sweater & Cap

Major Awards

Participation:
David Davis – 4 entries for 403 points

Best Kit Built:
Chuck Lind – E.S. Camp Mercantile

Architectural:
Bob Brendle – Fallburgh Station

Tree:
Loren Neufeld – Saguaro Cactus

Youth:
Blake Bogs – UP 4-6-0

Bob Clarke:
Chuck Lind – E.S. Camp Mercantile

Square Foot:
Loren Neufeld – Desolation Station

Novice Best of Show:
Mike Jobe – Houligan's Alley

Arts & Crafts – Most Popular:
Julia Davis – Ripped Ceramic Vase

Most Popular:
Barry Bogs – G Scale EMD F3 AB

Arts & Crafts – Best in Show:
Barbara Smith – Crossroads of Texas

Best In Show:
Loren Neufeld – Desolation Station

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. **The upcoming events:**

LSR Convention:

Lone Star Region 59th Annual Convention (2010) San Antonio, TX

The Lone Star Region NMRA 59th Annual Convention will be held in San Antonio. Details are still being worked out and will be added as the details become more firm — Check the LSR website. **Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

LSR Division 3-Northeast Texas Division - Monthly Garland

Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website or contact Duane Richardson duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers Meeting San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum; 11791 Wetmore Rd.; San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Trruner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

DFW Area Lionel Modular Group Meeting Plano

The DFW Lionel Modular Group meets the second Monday of the month at 6:45 p.m. in the Gladys Harrington Library, 1501 East 18th St.; Plano, TX. For more information call (972) 422-4330.

Houston Area Live Steamers Hockley ,TX

Come enjoy free train rides on our 7,500 feet of 7½-inch gauge track. Public run days are the 3rd Saturday of the month March thru November. US Hwy 290 and Roberts Road; Times are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. We can always open special days for Model Railroaders. For more info go to www.hals.org or contact Peter Bryan at peterb@ppdq.net

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting Irving, TX

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the NTC website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or its member clubs. All model railroaders welcome.

Events and Shows:

August 2009

15th New Braunfels 16th Annual Summer Model Train Show; Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Adults $5, Family $8, Children 17 and under $1; New Braunfels Civic Center; 380 S. Seguin Street; New Braunfels, TX. Contact Jason Wahl (830) 660-4278.

18th "Fascinating T&P Artifacts"; Claire Evans, Discussions at the Depot; Texas & Pacific Depot and Museum; 800 N. Washington; Marshall, TX. For more information, call: (903) 938-9495.

22nd Train Collectors Association, Lone Star Division - Train Show and Meet; Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Adults $6, Family $9; Holiday Inn Plano; 700 Central Parkway East/Highway 75; Plano, TX. For more information contact Pat Halpin (210) 661-4238 or pathalpin@aol.com

30th National Railway Historical Society, Gulf Coast Chapter Membership Meeting; 7:30 p.m.; Houston Railroad Museum; 7390 Mesa Dr.; Houston, TX. For more information call (713) 631-6612.

30th "Steam Engine Operations"; Dr. J. Parker Lamb, Railroad Lecture Series; 2:00 p.m.; Temple Railroad Heritage Museum; 315 W. Avenue B; Temple, TX.

September 2009

9th Train Collectors Association, Gulf Coast Chapter/ Lone Star Division - Train Show and Swap Meet; Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Adults $6, Family $9, Children 12 and under Free; Cypress Creek Christian Community Center; 6823 Cypress Dr.; Spring, TX. For more information, call Carl Olson (281) 277-7630 or Dave Ronick (281) 282-0441.

15th Railfest 2009; Texas State Railroad; Palestine, TX. For more information, www.texasstaterr.com

19th - 20th Centra-Mod 27th Annual Temple Train Show; Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Adults $5, Children 12 and Under Free with Adult (discounts for seniors and active duty military and dependents w/ ID); Frank Mayborn Convention Center; Temple, TX. For more information, contact Jim Bush (254) 542-7728; trainshow@centramod.org or CentraModInc@centramod.org

October 2009

3rd – 4th Alamo Model Railroad Engineers 21st Annual Train Show; Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Road; Live Oak, TX. For more information amreshow@satx.rr.com

3rd – 4th The Great Train Expo; Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Adults $7, Children 12 and Under Free; Castine Center; 63350 Pelican Drive; Mandaville, LA. For more information, www.greattrainexpo.com.

10th – 11th LMRA 27th Model Train Show; Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.; Adults $7, Children 10 and Under Free w/ Adult ticket; Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area; 3400 Bryant Irvin Road; Ft. Worth, TX. For more information, contact: http://www.lmra.org/activity.html

Future Events (More Information to follow as available)

November 2009

14th – 15th NTC Fort Worth Train Show; Will Rogers Complex; Fort Worth, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com

January 2010

16th – 17th NTC Dallas Area Train Show; Plano Centre; Plano, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com

February 24-27, 2010 Sn3 Symposium 2010, Houston, Texas. Open to all Narrow Gaugers for more information see their web site www.sn3-2010.com

Mastering Modeling - Two Region Conventions In Eleven Days

By Tracy Mitchell

For many of you after the LSR Convention was over, you were done with train conventions for awhile. Well this was not the case with me. After the LSR was over in Irving (and what a convention), I was off to the Mid Continent convention held in Wichita. Because the MCoR did not start until the following Thurs, I got to spend some time with my good friend in Guthrie, Oklahoma, Phil Morrow, and my sister Roxanne, who lives in Wichita.

After the board meeting was over I headed North to Phil's to spend the night and half of the next day railfanning. The first night we followed the BNSF mainline that parallel US highway 77 North. Phil took me to the little town of Mulhall that was literally blown off the map by a tornado back in 2002. The only thing that was left of the town was the old bank building (Built in 1905) that is now a great restaurant. The area where the tellers were is now the bar. Several old photos of the area decorated the wall. My Mother grew up in that part of Oklahoma, so I was quite familiar with the landmarks such as the 101 ranch. This is where Tom Mix got his start. As a kid we used to go out to the 101, to watch the rodeos. While eating, we heard a train blow through. I wanted to get up and chase it, but Phil said don't worry we will catch it on the way back. Sure enough we caught it. Also on the way back we discussed the un-cut wheat fields we were seeing, and I made the comment that this wheat was only knee high. I asked Phil when I was a kid I remember the wheat was much taller, growing chest high on an adult. He said I'll take you by a field that is like you remember. So we got off of Hgwy 77 and started across the country on dirt roads. We finally got to a field and Phil dropped his 4x4 truck into low, and off road we went. We hugged the Osage orange (Bois D'Arc or hedge apple trees to you Texans) wind break until we got to a field of Chest high wheat. Phil said this is about the only farmer in the area that still grows the Red Russian winter wheat. I got out and walked in the field. All my memories of playing in wheat fields as a kid came rushing back to me.

Once we got back to his place it was time to watch the wildlife coming onto his property. Phil has a deer feeder and like clockwork, wild turkeys were the first to arrive. It was a good size flock with a Tom and 12 hens. The next to arrive were the guail, and finally the deer started feeding about 9:45. It was a great ending to the day.

On Monday we were up bright and early… well early for Phil (9:30). He then took me into town to look at the great architecture of the town. After seeing an old wooden grain elevator, brick freight houses, and many old store fronts, we went to the ATSF depot. We weren't there very long, when we heard a train horn. Much to my surprise the train was a crane pushing a flat car. After about three hours of chasing old buildings, it was time for me to head to Wichita.

Once in Wichita, my sister had a big list of Honey dos for her brother. I worked on them until Thurs when the Convention got under way.

The Mid-Continent or as it is called MCoR comprises of the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and parts of Illinois and Iowa. The region is very diverse geographically, Economically, Socially and just about anything else you can think of. Being a newbie to that region, I was a little apprehensive about attending, but the moment I walked into the hotel I felt like I belonged.

After picking up my packet, I was told to head to the social room where cheese, crackers, and drinks were being served. Once when I was in there I met couples from Branson MO and Lawton OK. I also met some local guys from Eldorado and Wichita. The first thing that caught their eye about me was my badge read I was from Houston. They were asking stuff like "Was I lost or something?" That was then when I told them I was born in a small town 2 miles West and 8 miles North of where we are (Maize) . I lived here until I was 12, and my sister still lives here is why I am up here. They then asked why did my family move. When I told them my Dad got laid off at Boeing in 69, one of the locals was really thinking about what I just said. You could literally see the wheels spinning in his head. He finally said "I too worked at Boeing, but I don't think I was there when your father was, but I recall I had a supervisor with the last name of Mitchell. What was your father's name?" When I told him it was Jack he said well that wasn't my supervisor, his name was Charles. I then said oh you worked for my Uncle Charlie. This made me feel even more at home.

The night had a pretty light schedule with only a few clinics going on. I caught both of them and was treated to Marty Vaughn talking about the Armoured trains of Europe. It was then followed by a good friend and fellow NGer Dennis Brandt from Norfolk Neb. It was on Colo NG, what else.

The Next day (Friday) the convention started in earnest. We had a full set of clinics, prototype tour, layout tour, contest, and auction. My clinic was the last one for the morning session. Unfortunately the clinic room that was going to be used by us was booked by another group at the last minute. It was a Sanborn group with all the surrounding county beauracrats attending. My clinic room was moved to the bar. I'm telling you now, and the LSR Bar flies (David Davis, Don Kimmel, Ray Byer, Don Formanek, Gordon Lawson etc) will agree, the best place to have a clinic, is the bar. We set up on the dance floor, and had all sorts of "ambience" not associated with a normal clinic. The only down side was the room reeked with cigarettes. I know for a fact that Wichita has a smoking ordinance and when I spoke to the hotel about it, they said yes there is, but if you are willing to pay the monthly fee (fine) up front, you can get around it. What a concept!

The other clinics that I caught were Spline roadbed, Resin Rock casting, RR operations, and prototype modeling applications. I even set in on Fran and Miles Hale Make and Take a Structure kit. It too was done in the bar.

I signed up for the bus tour and at promptly 1PM, the bus pulled out for a trip to a live steam layout. This live steam layout

was no ordinary live steam layout but was on the grounds of the owner of Chance Manufacturing. Chance Manufacturing is the place where they make amusement park rides. If you have ever ridden a ride at a local carnival, fair, tourist traps like Kemah Boardwalk, or even the big parks like Six Flags, Fiesta Texas, or Astroworld you ridden a Chance ride. The individual who started Chance is now in his late 80's. He started the company back after WWII. Since then he has built 86 live steam locomotives in all scales. His private loop of track was 12 inch ga. Out of those 86 locos only 2 were ten-wheelers and one of those was being fired up for us. Once we got there, they were having problem with getting the fire going. It seems they were using poor grade coal from Oklahoma and impurities in it clogged the loco up. They had to drop the fire, clean out the smoke box as well as the stack, before getting a new fire going with Colorado coal this time. While waiting they asked if anybody was from Wichita on the tour because no one had it on their badges. The guy said I was going to give a little history about this locomotive, but if you aren't from here it doesn't matter. I said I grew up here. So he then went into the history of the loco. The locomotive came from the amusement park here in Wichita and was first built in the 1940's. I mentioned, "You must be talking about Joyland". He said yeah I am, and proceeded on with it. Seems it pulled the train at Joyland almost every day the park was open for over 45 years. Then it was used only on weekends or special events until the park was closed down in 1999. We talked about the park and how it had one of the best wooden rollercoaster's in the country, as well as the best fun house called the Shaky Shack. It also had a true midway with all the rigged games. By the time we were done reminiscing, it was time to head out on the line. We went around about three times and then boarded the bus and back to the hotel.

That evening the motel activities were shut down and the self guided layout tours started. Wichita offered five layouts with one in Newton (about 40 miles North of Wichita).

On Saturday the vendors arrived and we were treated to a good vendor room. I even spent over $200 there. I guess it was because I don't get a chance to see very many vendors from that part of the country. To me, this was the highlight of the convention. As more region conventions need to find ways to offset the cost of paying for conventions, vendor rooms might be more of the norm.

The banquet was your typical banquet. After the hotel food was served, we were treated to the key note speaker. The gentlemen's name was Rodney Bates from the Abilene and Smokey Valley RR Assoc. This is a tourist RR running on former Rock Island trackage. What Rodney was giving the talk on was the restoration of the ATSF Pacific #3415 to working condition. This was a great talk and was really nice to see photos of the restoration as well as seeing the pacific in action. This now gives me a new place to go railfan in KS.

All in all it was a great convention. I got to reacquaint myself old friends and new ones as well. I learned several new techniques to apply to my modeling. I even got to relive my childhood by riding a train that I haven't been on since the mid 60's. What more can you ask.

All in all, it was a great eleven days. I got my train battery recharge and now it is time to get back to modeling.

FROM THE PAST (Summer 1984)

By Jim Long, MMR LSR Historian

At the annual BOD meeting held on June 29, 1984, At Large Director Bob Macdonald of Austin, Texas, submitted the Constitution changes needed to change the make up the LSR Board of Directors from 4 Area Directors and 3 At Large Directors to 8 Division Directors and 3 At Large Directors. The BOD approves the changes and they will be submitted to the general membership for approval or disapproval.

Bob Mason of Dallas, Texas gave the 1985 Dallas Convention progress report. The convention will be held at the Regent Hotel in Dallas, June 13-16. Anticipated registration will be about $35.00 per member and efforts are being made to lower the cost.

LSR President Ed Quin resigned the office of LSR President/NMRA Trustee effective at the close of business on August 10, 1984. Per the LSR Constitution Vice President John Lowrance, San Antonio, Texas, assumes the office for the remainder of Ed's unexpired term. The reason for Ed's resignation is that he was elected to the office of NMRA Vice President, Southern Regions, replacing Dr. Robert Ellis, Houston, Texas, a most able administrator who has served the LSR and NMRA well.

The model railroad club in Bryan, Texas was informed on May 15 the city would require them to move no later than June 1. The club did not meet the master plan for the park, so their Clubhouse was turned into a restroom. However, the city made available another (outhouse) building in one of the other city parks in North Bryan. Working frantically, they dismantled the layout, removed the interior walls of the old building and on June 1 made 5 trips to the new building with the last of the junk. The track plan has been accepted and work is underway on a new layout.

Bob Clarke of Schertz, Texas reports that's we have all seen the beautifully scratch built structure or rolling stock with the unnatural paint job. Granted, looking natural is in the eye of the beholder, but models with that fresh paint look don't seem to fit. The following may assist you in creating the natural look of your model's finish:

To Achieve:	**Try This:**
Other than fresh rust	Rail Brown
Aged iron	1:1 ratio Antique Bronze & Grimy Black
Aged white	Antique White
Weathered wood	Grime or Driftwood
Rotted woos	Thinned Roof Brown
Bricks	Rust & Boxcar Red mix
Tints if a color (lighten)	Add white
Shades of a color (darken)	Add black/dark gray
Tones of a color (dull)	Add black & white

Try this experiment (extracted from June '67 MR): Mix one part gray to four parts of each color you use on a structure. Yes, even mix the gray with your black, yellow and white. If it turns the yellow a little greenish, increase the ration like one past to eight or sixteen parts – GOOD LUCK.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Rocky Jackson

7/13/09

LSR Financial Accounts

Beginning April 1, 2009	
Checking Account	$2,395.74
Vanguard Money Market Accounts Total	$38,806.12
Div. 1 Funds Held (Not LSR Funds)	$2,153.00
Div. 3 Funds Held (Not LSR Funds)	$305.68
Region Net Worth – (LSR Funds Only)	$38,743.18
Checking Account Income	
Ad, Pike	16.00
Ad, Dealer	16.00
Decals	16.35
Cars	365.00
Subscription	6.00
Dues	-7.00
Convention 2009 Return of Advance	1,000.00
Vanguard MM (CD Fund)	44.24
Vanguard MM (Convention Fund)	15.92
Subtotal	$1,472.51
Checking Account Disbursements	
Board Meetings (Copying)	8.80
Convention (Current-2009)	80.11
Secretary/Treasurer & Postage	21.67
Achievement	39.76
Historian	12.99
Contest	157.99
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	1,269.74
Convention 2010 Advance	1,000.00
Division 1 Expenses	337.52
Youth	28.00
Subtotal	$2,956.58
Ending June 30, 2009	
Checking Account	$2,886.67
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	$36,806.12
Division 1 Funds Held (Not LSR Funds)	$1,815.48
Division 3 Funds Held (Not LSR Funds)	$305.68
Region Net Worth – (LSR Funds Only)	$37,571.63

Total NMRA/LSR Membership inside the LSR area on June 30 was 1009 members. Two years ago, the total NMRA/LSR membership inside the LSR was 1031.

New Members—Please take note of these new NMRA/LSR members. They're listed alphabetically by state and by city, and their Division number is shown, to help identify those who live in your area. When you run into them, say hello, and invite them to attend your model-railroading activities.

Texas

William Anderson, Mansfield, TX, 01
Jim Aust, Grapevine, TX, 01
Robert Eaton, Houston, TX, 08
Darlyn Hamblin, Flower, TX, 01
Jeff Hamilton, Orange, TX, 08
Robert Harvey, Prosper, TX, 03
Steve Jackson, Austin, TX, 04
Harley Nicholas, Rockwall, TX, 03
Peter Shaveny (Texas Transportation Museum), San Antonio, TX, 06
Max Zanger, Houston, TX, 08

Company Store

	HO		N-Scale
Casey Lines	OUT		$ 5.00
Texas & African	$5.00		OUT
Waco Austin & Bryan	OUT		$ 5.00
Anniversary Car 1951	OUT	per set	$20.00
Anniversary Cars 2001	OUT	per set	$20.00
ITC - Bob Clarke	$5.00	per set	$20.00
Quin Lines	$12.00		

Check your layout and be sure you have one of each *special run* Region car.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches	$5.00 each
Auto/Window Region Decal	$ .50
N Scale Nevadun Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Daw Cha Southern Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Downe and Owlte	$4.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Cape Able and Port Entous	$4.00 per sheet

Shipping

Please add $5.00 for up to 3 cars and add $1.00 for patches and decals

Eunice Linda, Dispatcher
3028 Cumberland
Waco, TX 76707-1219
254-754-5535
E-mail: jlinda@hot.rr.com

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

I hope you all are staying out of the heat and working on your layouts. As I write this, it's been above 100 degrees every day for a week.

Of course the big Division 1 event over the last quarter was the 2009 LSR convention in Irving. We had a great turnout at 238 people, and 47 of those were from the Cowcatcher Division. The convention was a great success, but we owe it all to the attendees. I'm especially grateful to those that helped out from both Division 1 and 3.

The next convention will be in San Antonio. They already have a start on their website at alamorails.com. I hope you all show San Antonio the support you showed us. Besides a great convention, there are a lot of family friendly activities in the area to keep everyone busy.

About 20 of us got together at Risky's Bar-B-Q during train ride stop at the Ft. Worth Stock Yards for the quarterly meeting. They did an outstanding job getting everyone in and out in the time the train stopped. The train ride was enjoyable and it was nice seeing everyone that could make it.

Several of the shops around the Stockyards donated door prizes for the convention. Many of them stayed open way past their normal Thursday business hours to give the convention goers someplace to browse while waiting for the train to return to Grapevine.

We had several great sponsors, including Tim Blackwell's Cowcatcher Roundup and Angelo Hobbies from division 1.

Hopefully you get a chance to thank them for their support of the LSR.

If you have an event you would like to share with the division, send me an email at Chris@railroadmodelers.com and you can report on it here or I can post a note at cowcatcherdivision.com.

Division 1 is still looking for a youth to submit to Rocky Jackson, the new Youth Chairman. If you have a child or grandchild that is especially interested in model railroading, please let me know so I can get his/her name to Tom. Every year, each division nominates a child to the board, and the children receive a free membership to the NMRA. This is a great opportunity to introduce a young person to the hobby and our organization.

The next meeting of Division 1 will be held Saturday, September 12 at 10AM in Room 1 of the LMRA administration building - 3400 Bryant-Irvin Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76109. Keep an eye on the division website at cowcatcherdivision.com for more information about the meeting.

See you in September..

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider

What an outstanding LSR Convention!! Our hats are off to convention chairman Jerry Hoverson and his group for doing such a great job. Thanks, fellas. Our team for the San Antonio Convention next year will really have to work hard to match the quality of the TRINITY RIVER INTERCHANGE.

Most of these quarterly reports open with something that's heartwarming, but in this case,…let's just say *very warming*. It was 2:00 in the morning when the iguana got a bit frisky, turned his heat lamp over and started a disastrous fire at The Children's Museum in Lake Charles. The Children's Museum is the host of the Lake Area Model RR Club. Unfortunately both the Museum and the LAMRRC sustained considerable damage. The first floor was completely destroyed and the second and third floors sustained soot and smoke damage. The second floor houses the LAMRRC. The layout was undamaged, just a lot of soot covering it. All the buildings, models, locomotives, and cars have been removed for safekeeping. The main service line from Entergy and the electrical service for the first floor had to be replaced. Without A/C….no club functions. The latest word is that the second and third floors might reopen September first. The club learned one thing for certain and that is to have insurance. The layout could not be replaced otherwise. A WORD to the WISE, guys.

Finally made the trip to Houma, LA, to visit Art Houston and the Pacific Grande. Art is quite an interesting fellow. He relocated to Houma from Harahan when he and his wife decided to retire. Art has been in the hobby for many years and one of his many accomplishments was an 8' X 38' modular HO Layout called the Grande Pacific-Eastern Division. Art donated the entire working layout to the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders. Their clubhouse is located at the Republic of West Florida Historical Museum in Jackson, LA., just North-East of Baton Rouge. The club has operating O, HO, N, and Garden railroads.

ART planned out his new layout when he moved to Houma. He kept parts of his old layout in Harahan for use in Houma He did it the way we all would like to have done ours. He planned out a new 50X20 separate building behind his home. It has its own a/c, electricity, is very well insulated and is totally designed to the needs of the layout. The only entrance to the windowless building is thru his office/workshop area which is adjacent to a tall 2 track helix. The remaining 850 square feet is a double shelf layout. Art has made considerable progress and the first tier can accommodate trains. He has a long way to go but as he said, "I'm retired".

This summer looks like it will be one of the hottest. Remember, take it easy and drink plenty of cool, refreshing liquids to sustain yourself. Stay out of the heat. Play with the trains in air conditioned comfort. Until next time, we have a saying in the better half of Louisiana, "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – Let the good times roll!

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR

Ahhhhh…… the convention is over and I'm finally recovering. It was a lot of hard work by a lot of great folks but it was well worth it, thanks to you, the LSR members that attended the convention and made it a huge success! From all accounts, everyone had a great time and that is what it was all about.

Unfortunately there is some sad news to deliver. For those that have not heard Harold Carstens passed away peacefully just 16 days after he entertained us with his presentation as our guest speaker at the convention. He was 84. Here is a photo taken on the last day of the convention with Hal being flanked by myself and Marc LaChey, the guest speaker coordinator.

One of the major convention goals was to reach out and attract new convention attendees and new LSR members to

the activities. I called for a show of hands at the banquet and was blown away by the number of new attendees! I wasn't able to get a count but it was somewhere around 25 or so. I'm very, very proud of the convention team for making this a reality. A secondary goal was to provide a good time to all that will cause you to want to return next year and for years to come. I guess we'll have to wait until June 2010 to see if we accomplished that goal. So start making your plans now and mark your calendars for June 2-6, 2010 to come to "Alamo Rails" in San Antonio.

As your new Division 3 director, I plan on continuing what Duane has built with his very successful monthly division meetings. The time and venue may change but we'll still meet monthly and provide an environment for increasing modeling skills and great fellowship. By the time you read this we will have already held our first meeting and will be putting together a fantastic agenda of things to come.

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bill Dryden, Jr

Here is the group having fun at "Houston" on Jack Merkel's railroad on April 4th. Jack had the crews back again on May 23 for morning and afternoon sessions. All of the sessions have been well attended and, as usual, a good time was had by all.

Not to be outdone, on June 27th, Edmar Wienskoski, of Austin, opened up his layout for morning and afternoon sessions with a dozen or so operators shuffling trains around the layout.

For all of us who were able to attend operations on these two layouts, a great THANKS go to both Jack and Edmar for hosting us.

From Tom Pearson, we get the news of the Austin Area Model Railroad Jamboree to be held in October. Please see the *Up the Tracks* column for more details. Seems like this has been a Central Texas event for ever. I can remember attending the Jamboree back in the 80s; and am looking forward to the opportunity this year to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. See y'all there.

If you have things going on with your club or individually, please let me know so I can include you and your activities in this news letter.

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

No report received

Division 6

by Fred Bock, MMR

A hearty "welcome aboard" to the **Texas Transportation Museum!** At it's meeting in June, the TTM Board of Directors voted to have the Texas Transportation Museum become a *Sustaining Member* of the NMRA. TTM Treasurer and NMRA member Pete Shavney is the POC between TTM and the NMRA. (Peter was also the General Chairman of the NMRA National Convention in Philadelphia in 1964).

TTM has it's own operating 1:1 scale Longhorn & Western railroad! It's also home to an HO model railroad division – the Alamo Model Railroad Engineers (AMRE) – and to the San Antonio Garden Railway Society (SAGRS) outdoor garden railway division. There's also a Lionel/tinplate display railroad and a wonderful collection of antique automobiles, trucks, and fire engines – most in operating condition (rides offered on weekends). . . as well as steam locomotives, passenger cars, and cabooses on display and/or under restoration.

TTM is located in San Antonio just north of the airport, at 11730 Wetmore Road, the northwest corner of Wetmore and Wurzbach Parkway. It's open to the public 4 days a week, you can go to http://www.txtransportationmuseum.org to learn more about TTM, AMRE, SAGRS, and the museum's other activities.

Speaking of LSR Conventions: if you missed this year's "Trinity River Interchange" convention in Irving, Texas, you missed a good one. LSR Divisions 1 & 3 joined forces to produce what they termed a "Super-Convention" — and it was very good indeed, with plenty of clinics, contest models, prototype and layout tours, operating sessions, attendees from other NMRA regions, and an evening ride on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad to the Fort Worth Stockyards Congratulations to Jerry Hoverson and his convention committee for a super job.

Next year's convention in June 2009 rotates to Division 6. That's us! Paul Steves has volunteered to be the Chairman of the **"Alamo Rails 2010"** convention planning committee, assisted by veteran conventioneer Al Boos, MMR. Al and Paul have already booked the convention hotel, "The Holiday Inn Select San Antonio Airport", and Paul has already held several convention planning meetings.

Something new for this convention: Paul has put out a call to **all** LSR Division 6 members and clubs throughout the Division to volunteer to work on planning and putting on the convention. The results have been gratifying. That sounds like a lot of volunteer help, Paul needs everyone who is willing to pitch in and make **"Alamo Rails 2010"** a success. Although most sub-committee chairs have been filled, there are a number of key positions still vacant, and each sub-committee needs workers as well. So drop Paul an e-mail at stevespj@aol.com. If he doesn't come looking for you, then I just might!

El jefe Paul is also promoting another innovation for "Alamo Rails 2010": the "Mexican Connection". He extends a special

invitation to our model railroading neighbors south of the Rio Grande / Rio Bravo del Norte to join us at the convention. *Bienvinedos a ferromodelistas de Mexico*! Mexico is not included in any of the 17 NMRA regions, but model railroaders from any of the "clubs amigos de ferromodelismo" are welcome to join us at the convention.There are a number of "MMR-level" modelers in Mexico; we are hoping to have them come to **"Alamo Rails 2010".**

Turning to other news: the San Antonio N-Trak (SANTAK) club is enjoying (!?) their current club location: a 40,000 square foot warehouse space not far from the AT&T arena in San Antonio. I say "enjoying" because most of the space is NOT air conditioned . . . although it's not too bad between midnight and noon! This is the third location SANTRAK has occupied since January; however (as President Frank Housvika reminds them) SANTRAK IS a "modular club"! SANTRAK is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons; other times as requested by the membership. Since they could move within a two-week notice, check http://santrak.org for latest information.

SANTRAK is also building a small N-scale raffle layout. Raffle tickets will be sold between now and Christmas. The layout will be exhibited at the AMRE train show (see below) and the TTM "Santa's Railroad Wonderland" holiday event; at the latter, the winning ticket will be drawn.

Speaking of air conditioning, SAMRA recently had one of their AC units go out, and had to be replaced. Given the 100+-degree weather we've had recently, AC is now almost a necessity (or else, big fans with scale-hurricane-force winds!). Stay cool, guys!

Finally, the Alamo Model Railroad Engineers will have their annual train show at the Live Oak Civic Center this Fall. Check their website at http://www.txtransportationmuseum.org.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Greetings from hot and humid (not an understatement) North Louisiana! All those folks up north talk about the winter as the time to do their modeling, but we all know they have their seasons reversed!

As you may have guessed, this it the "slow" season, the only activity has been the annual Ark-La-Tex Modular Club's show at the Shriners Hospital. As to be expected it went off with out a hitch, in fact they (the Hospital) had a citywide open house to publicize things. This was one of the Hospitals that were being considered for closing, but we just found out this week that they are not going to close. There was a good crowd and much interest in the layout, a bit of TV, and newspaper coverage. Not too bad a deal. They will most likely be set up there again for the Christmas Season. We did have a clinic on DCC, attendance was light, but everyone did learn a few more things.

If you missed this year's convention, you missed another great one! The clinics were very informative, although a couple were canceled due to some "computer" issues, but otherwise you could learn a lot, which I did. The train ride was fun, a bit hot, but D/FW in June can be that way and we even had entertainment. So if you missed, sorry, but put it on your calendar for 10'. Of course we have a new President, Vice-President and Sec/Treas, and I know they will do a good job.

Upcoming events: The Texas State Railroad, in Palestine, is putting together a event the first Saturday in September, I am sure there will be more in the near future, so keep your eyes and ears open. I was told this is to celebrate the return of STEAM to operations.

Do not forget the annual LMRA Railroad Activity Railroad Show, October 10th &11th. This is always a great show.

Then the end of October, 31st and November 1st, there will be the T&P Marshall Depot Show, at the Marshall Civic Center, right on US 59, bout a mile north of I-20. Not a big show, but a fun one, and the money goes to a great cause.

There has not been much going on with the KCS' Holiday Express, what with the way the economy is, but I do hear some good things are going on. More later.

Have fun and play trains!!!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

With the A/C on full, and the heat outside running around 100 degrees, I am writing this report for the LSR. In April the Division had its first Chili and Train Photo day in Alvin Texas. We had seven teams cooking and around 40 members show up for the event. Trains were running slow that day, but friendship was running fast.

In June the LSR convention was held in Irving, Texas. It was a good event. The Division had some members enter model contest, I think all of them placed. This Year's Youth member entered his first LSR contest and placed second in steam engines. For all of you, who do not know the Division 8 Youth member, his name is Blake Bogs. If he doesn't finds out about girls and cars, Dad may be giving up some wall space for all of Blake's contest plaques. Keep up the good work.

The Division 8 has more events planned for the cooler part of the year. So if you are in the Texas Gulf Coast, keep the A/C on full and the model paint wet. And start building for next year's LSR contest.

Thanks again for you time.

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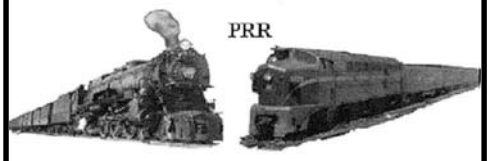

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